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## August 2021


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## The Lost Necklace

0Once upon a time there was a lady soon to be married, who was busily engaged in making preparations for the great event. She was Syrian, and in Syria from ancient times the women have always worn necklaces. The necklaces were not made of pearls or gold, but of silver coins in current use, ten of which strung together to make a circlet. If one of the pieces happens to disappear the other nine are rendered useless and the necklace is spoiled.

So when the young woman of the parable lost one of the coins that made up the necklace, she lighted a candle and began to search in every nook and corner until she found it. Having faound it, she was so happy, she called in her neighbours to celebrate. The parable, looked at from the standpoint of the Lord of Heaven, He who made the world and is the ultimate reality in the universe, we are part of His necklace. We are each a unit in the necklace. When we reflect on the meaning of existence, life is empty and meaningless unless we admit that man is a unit in the adornment of God.

Often man indulges in short-lived pleasures like bouts of drinking. Unless we concede that the purpose of man is to adorn God, there is but little interest in the daily round we call life; but to be able
to say, "I am part of God's great necklace, I even I, am one of its pearls," is enough to alter our whole outlook on life.

The reason why some people $d$ not lead a disciplined life and go astray is simply because they fail to realize that they are part of God's adornment. Man who has been created by the Maker of Heaven and earth must not bring ruin upon himself. The giving in to self, the spirit of desperation which gives the body for immoral activities, is a direct violation of the will of the Heavenly Father, who especially made us to be His adornment.

So when even one of the pieces in the chain is lost, the Heavenly Father is deeply affected; He searches and searches everywhere. The Heavenly Father is out searching for the missing folk; then when He finds them, like the woman in the story, He is filled with joy and says, "I have found that which was lost!"


Toyohiko Kagawa (1888-1960) was a Japanese Christian reformer, pacifist, and labour activist.

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## We the People of India...



345million subjects of King George VI turned citizens at the stroke of midnight of 15 August 1947. India was the jewel in the British crown. It was the largest colony of the British and was a nation in the making for many decades before that eventful night.

The British rule over India had lasted from 1757 to 1947. The freedom struggle of India was a part of the decolonisation process happening in many colonies in Asia and Africa in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The populist policies of Gandhi gave our freedom struggle a facelift. It gradually gained momentum. There were many forms of native resistance to colonialism.

## The Emergence of Nationalism

The victory of Robert Clive, (later the first British Governor of Bengal) over Siraj Ud Daula, the Nawab of Bengal in the Battle of Plassey near Calcutta in 1757 marked the dawn of colonialism in India. During the first hundred years, colonialism suffered many jolts. The first major blow to British imperialism in India was the Revolt of 1857. But shaking off colonialism was no easy task to be accomplished. It took a long struggle from 1857 to 1947 for India to become a nation.

If the British political hegemony was brutal, cultural hegemony through the civilising mission was to have a lasting impact on the destiny of India. While many consider English education as an agency for emancipating Indians, Mahatma Gandhi said that the colonial system of education had enslaved us. British
education destroyed the pride in our culture. Furthermore, the problems created by colonial rule, which lasted two hundred years, continue to plague not only India but also its neighbours in South Asia. The "divide and rule" policy of the British had culminated in the Partition. Kashmir, once called the 'paradise on earth' by Mughal and Persian poets became an 'issue' in 1947.

Many political associations were formed in the late nineteenth century, including the Indian National Congress. The educated middle class used these as platforms to develop the modern consciousness of people as sovereign in place of the king. It later developed into a struggle against racism and demanded greater representation to Indians, in administration.

After 1919 the struggle against British rule became a mass movement with the Rowlatt Satyagraha which was the first all India struggle against the British government and their repressive policies. A peaceful hartal by farmers at Jalianwala Bagh turned out to be a tragedy and this united the Hindus and Muslims once again since the revolt of 1857. Gandhiji decided to cement this temporary unity by using the Khilafat issue as an opportunity to reach out to the Muslims to join the cause of nationalism.

The Indian leaders did not stop there but continued with the Non-cooperation Movement against the British government. They also demanded Swaraj or self rule. The Civil Disobedience Movement was launched in 1930.

## Multiparty scene

A party system is the backbone of a healthy democracy. India was not only becoming a nation but a democratic republic. Apart from the Indian National Congress led by Gandhi and Nehru, many other parties emerged in India such as the Muslim League, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Communist Party of India. There was also a revolutionary strand in Indian nationalism. The demand for Swaraj was a collective call and the first independence day was celebrated on 26 January 1930 all over the country. This time the call was not for swaraj but 'purna swaraj'. But these parties parted ways as the Civil Disobedience Movement unfurled.

## Dandi March

The day after Gandhi broke the salt law in Dandi, Lord Irwin, the Viceroy was still following a policy of non-interference to tackle Gandhi's policy of non-violence. But the Governor of Bombay (Dandi was under him) wrote, "Gandhi has succeeded in reaching the masses.... law can be defied if sufficient concerted action is brought." Thus the popular sentiment against Britain had consolidated and crystallized. The daily Time saluted Gandhi as a 'saint and statesman'.

## Inching towards Independence

Finally, the Government of India Act of 1935 prescribed provincial autonomy. In the ensuing elections, Congress had a landslide victory. The leaders tried to bargain for independence by supporting the British in the II World War. After three failed Round Table Conferences in London, Congress decided to initiate the Quit India movement in the middle of the World War hoping it would put pressure on the British parliament to act. Instead, the British government unleashed repression.

In the 1930s Jinnah and other Muslim leaders had come up with the two nation
theory. Remarkably, Jinnah was an ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity until 1920. At the end of the World War, Britain was exhausted and in huge debt. It opened negotiations with Congress and the Muslim League but the Cabinet Mission was a failure. Partition became inevitable under these circumstances. Between August 1946 and August 1947 millions of Indians had either suffered, died or were displaced as a result of the partition.

## India @ 75

As we celebrate the Amrut Mahotsav and as the Vista Project is unfurling, the mission of independence has to be regained by India. Superstitions are riding affront and there is a false pride in a gloriously projected past.

Our constitution upholds the citizens' rights but in recent years there is a debate on "who is a citizen?" The Citizienship Amendment Act casts doubts in the minds of minorities and their status of citizenship. It is worth remembering how soon, after the Partition, the young state of India reached out to the minority citizens.

Prime Minister Nehru wrote, ".... we have a Muslim minority who are so large in numbers that they cannot, even if they want, go anywhere else. ...... We have got to deal with this minority in a civilized manner. We must give them security and the rights of citizens in a democratic state."

We the citizens will have to remind the state that it is the citizens who established the state through the constitution and gave it its powers. Retaining our hard earned sovereignty and strengthening it is an ensuing struggle. We, the people of India, have to reclaim the core values of the Republic.

The author is Professor in the Department of History, U.C. College, Aluva.


























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 treat it as a moment，not a monument＂



 ๑ைமைஸ゙：＂Failure is not an event，it is only an







 வのఘைை：＂No results？We have had wonderful results．We now know fifty thousand things that won＇t work．Soon we will find the one that does．＂







 ＂Successful people fail two out of every five times whereas unsuccessful people fail three out of every five times．＂（ விஜமிகலコカதమ







 ＂The man who does things，makes many mis－ takes；but he never makes the biggest mis－








































（กゅาชెாmைை 18：29）

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 (From the spirit of turmoil to the spirit of unity)
















































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 (To Maranatha days )










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## The Real



"TTriple lockdown" in the Covidosphere in Kerala. A discreet early morning walk along the Kodoor river. The paddy fields are slowly swelling with the monsoon rains. The dying leaves of some leftover rice plants are sticking out of water casting their reflections below. The picture transpires some sort of semi-abstract geometrical shapes of triangles and squares. They seem to be complete in themselves and are closed polygons. But on closer examination, they are found part real and part shadow.

In order to distinguish between the real and the unreal in them, we may imagine a horizontal line across the middle of each image. Then the top half is real and the bottom half is the shadow or the reflection. However, our eyes take them together, that is, the real object and its unreal reflection, in order to create our complete and comfortable picture of a triangle or a square.

Traditional wisdom often compares our life to a mirror. Just like water that reflects the
objects on its surface, life too reflects that which appears on its surface. The real and the unreal shadows are closely interwoven in life.

It is common knowledge that not only pleasure, but pain, disease, and death are necessary to complete the polygon of life. If there is no pain of some sort - physical psychic, or social we wouldn't be aware of what we now call reality. In fact, they are essential for us "to keep in touch with reality", as they say.

It is interesting to observe that in the digital culture today we speak of more than one reality and we even can deliberately mix and manipulate realities. If what we normally call Reality is our down to earth existence, we now speak of and experience new levels of reality like Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Mixed Reality.

Especially since the onset of the viral pandemic and lockdown, most of us live a good part of our time in Virtual Reality. From tiny tots in the kindergarten and humble farmers in the field to ivory tower academi-
 cians, high flying rulers, world leaders, and business magnates - all enter the virtual world to do online what they are supposed to do in the real world.

For many, the Net provides an escape route to break out of the tedious mundane reality to enter another world. There have always been people who try to escape the boredom of the real world by means of some intoxication whatsoever. In fact,
people invent innumerable ways to circumvent the drudgery of reality＇s chores，and wish to remain always，if possible，in a state of excite－ ment by means of arts and sports，eating and drinking，warring and violence and what not！

If the current momentum in Cyber Tech－ nology is maintained，humanity will inadvert－ ently bump into even new levels of reality．They say the emerging technologies like Quantum Computing，Artificial Intelligence and Mixed Reality together with Nanobiotechnology，3D Bioprinting，and a host of various Human Enhancement Technologies would radically al－ ter our human reality．We shall then enter the post－human world．In fact，we have already crossed the threshold．

One may also remember that there are very old counterparts to this futuristic vision．The great spiritual and mystical traditions have al－ ways spoken of new levels of reality that one could experience by practising certain spiritual sadhanas while living here in our ordinary real－ ity．This is essentially experiential and subjec－ tive，and not to be compared to objective sci－ entific methods．

All major religions and popular mythologies speak of many worlds．Heaven and hell in religious terminology are treated in the plural，and are said to possess numerous subdivisions as well．

It may be interesting that some in the field of scientific cosmology propose the hypotheti－ cal notion of multiverse or parallel universes rather than a single＂uni－verse＂．

In any case，it is better to keep our con－ sciousness open and resilient，and be ready for any new future Reality that may subtly perco－ late into our ordinary world without＂asking the host＇s permission to join＂．Change and Trans－ figuration，whether in the spiritual realm or in the scientific－technological sphere，is the law of life．An incomplete，hence open，polygon rather than a closed one may suggest ever new possibilities．It seems human consciousness is still the greatest mystery on earth！

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## The Kingdom: <br> Past, Present and Future



Jesus spoke to the disciples on a few occasions about His second coming. When He comes the second time, He will come in all the glory of The King. In the Nicene Creed we recite daily: "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end."
"When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory....Then the King will say to those on his right hand, Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 25: 31, 34)

So the kingdom has been in God's plan all along. There is no reference to the exact beginnings of the kingdom of God - a phrase that deserves much attention and meditation. We can look at it in a way that obfuscates the true conceptual meaning, waiting for it to be established one day. Or we can accept it as simply synonymous with the Church. Neither is a meaningful and truthful way forward. The former assumes that the kingdom will be established only with the second coming. So the churches can continue as if they are all that we have today, the kingdom will come some time in the future. The latter assumes that the kingdom and the Church are one and the same; there is no need to meditate over the content and meaning of the kingdom of God.

The emphasis throughout the synoptic
gospels is the good news of the kingdom of God, imminent first, preached intensively next and established before the crucifixion. During the 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension: "He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). Emphasis is given to highlight the importance Christ Himself had given even during the last leg of His earthly ministry, to the kingdom of God He had already established.

The gospel of John is all about the incarnation, 'avatar' in Indian languages, and believing in Him is the first and fundamental duty of all of us. John seems to assume that the kingship of Christ and the kingdom of God have been understood by those who believe in Jesus as the 'avatar'. After John's assertion that Jesus had the power even to act counter to natural laws, he reported on the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a ruler (read formal leader) of the Jews. To him Jesus said: "Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). John emphasised the message again and quoted Jesus: "Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Obviously that was not about the kingdom of God after Christ's second coming. The message had the contemporary real-life ring about it.

Denial of the established kingdom of God is an escape route for all of us, for all churches, because the consequences of accepting the kingdom of God as reality today will demand drastic changes in our lives, individually and collectively.

Two more quotations from John's gospel, 6:15 and 40, give us more insight about the "spiritual kingdom". "Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to a mountain by Himself alone". People understood the kingship of Jesus, and they valued His descent from King David, but Jesus was not preaching about a worldly kingdom at all. "And this is the will of Him who sent Me , that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day". So, days will end, the world will end, but the kingdom will continue. The kingdom has a past, present and future, just as Jesus the King and Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever.

Another escape route is to equate the kingdom of God with the Church as if they are synonymous. Remember, the very term 'Church' itself did not exist in the vocabulary of the believers and followers of Jesus Christ for centuries.

Another way to look at the true 'conceptual' meaning is to look into the Old Testament. The Israelites always believed in the sovereignty of God and His overall rule over them. King David had declared: "He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel" (1 Chronicles 28: 4). The kingship of God and the kingdom concept were well formed in David's mind when he declared: "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty, for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord."
(1 Chronicles 29:11). This verse has been appended to the Lord's Prayer, as we all know. If God is sovereign, there was little need or purpose for John the Baptist and Jesus Himself to use the term 'kingdom of God' in special ways, and repeatedly, if it meant only the same overall kingship of God. It had to have a special meaning since the entire earthly ministry was on the theme of kingdom of God, synonymous with kingdom of Heaven.

I have been amazed at some of the similarities of the Vedic religion of India and the Jewish religion of Palestine in their Godconcept. Both are monotheistic, both had elaborate rituals with strict instructions for animal sacrifices (Yagam, in Sanskrit, adopted in the Malayalam Bible). An unseen God, unknowable by humans, did not satisfy people; and the peoples of both the religions tended to deviate and desire forgods that priests could control. Sovereignty of God was accepted in both; the kings of Travancore claimed to be rulers as 'servants of Sri Padmanaba' just as David believed that he was serving under, and on behalf of, God.

In the Book of Daniel (2:44) we read: "...God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...it shall stand for ever". The Israelites had been waiting for the kingdom of God to be established: "Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God..." (Mark $15: 43$ ). Then John the Baptist announced it was imminent and Jesus established it. "...you are those who continued with Me in My trials, and I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me ..." (Luke 22: 28, 29). What was bestowed on Jesus was kingship and what was bestowed on the disciples was the kingdom.
(To be continued)

## The Christian Use of Passessions

OfOf all our practical problems, none are more urgent than those forced upon us by money and the things that it represents. Money or wealth stands for both our personal possessions and the materials which the earth produces in ever more abundant variety. We have come into a world in which the abundance and the variety of things have become so great that we have neither the wisdom nor the moral power to handle them aright.

There are some sayings of Jesus that read as if He were opposed to all forms of possession, and regarded wealth as an evil. He was no ascetic in the sense that He considered material things as evil and would have us get rid of them as far as possible. "Your Father knoweth that you have need of all these things", said Jesus. God has provided them. They are His gifts, to be rightly used and not despised.

But Jesus saw the twofold danger of possessions. Wealth and the things it can buy may become ends in themselves. Those who have and those who have not alike may reckon success by what they have, instead of by what they are.

The other danger that Christ saw in wealth is that it may give us a false sense of security which keeps us from seeking and finding our security in God. It is this deeper life with which Christ is concerned. Our possessions may come to possess us.

There is only one thing to do when this happens. We must somehow win our freedom to control them and use them for God's purpose in our life and that of others. The only way to that freedom may be an act of renunciation. There are cases where the cut may need to be drastic and complete. That is the explanation of the demand which Christ made of the rich young man who came to Him seeking the key to eternal life. If he would win the spiritual treasure, his wealth had to go. John Wesley was aware of its peril, and of the need to keep his freedom to live by spiritual values. We can possess our possessions only when we are free enough from their mastery over us, to be able to give them away.

The right principle to be followed in the use of money is that it must find its place in fulfilling God's purpose. In several parables Christ used the idea of trusteeship. We cannot extract from His sayings authority for any particular economic system, or find any command that wealth should be equally divided. If His values were accepted, the right system would develop whatever that system may be. The principle of trusteeship will carry us a long way. It will not let us undervalue money, but rather value it as a trust from God for which we shall have to render account.

There are various problems in the personal use of money. Giving is intimately related to the equally difficult problem of spending. Much of the strain which many people bear is due to the need for maintaining a wholly artificial standard of living. If we adopted a simpler regime, the strain would be immediately lifted and we should have something to give away. It is no argument to say that the need is so great that individual generosity cannot meet it. So long as we are accepting the benefits of our haphazard system of distributing wealth, so long must we be responsible for carrying our share of the burden of others. To help to carry the burden of others' need is involved in Christ's principle of the trusteeship of money.

The problem of giving has its own difficulties. Whatever giving we do must be done in love. Money is to become the currency of the loving spirit, binding men and women together instead of widening the chasm between rich and poor. There are gifts which produce a hidden spirit of resentment in the heart of the man whose needs make him dependent. They create
the feeling of a debt he can never repay. It takes a great deal of love and humility to give in the right spirit.

It is not only money that Christ would have us learn to share in His way. It may be comparatively easy to share money, or, at least, to give it. But we have other possessions which are much more personal and therefore much more difficult to share, our home, for instance. From that very personal quality they may more effectively carry the traffic of friendship.

The subject of money and the material things of life raises many economic problems. Christ gave no explicit directions about these, as indeed He gave none about most things. Christ laid down a principle which is fundamental. It is that of the supreme value of the individual personality. If we are seeking God's purpose in others, which is the meaning of love, people will matter more to us than property, and men more than money, and we will learn to give in the right spirit.

Courtesy : "Facing Life with Christ" (1940)


## Does Anyone Have Greater Love Than This?



God urges us to love Him first and then to love our neighbours as ourselves (See Matt. 22:3739). St. John says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Is it practical for a man to love his neighbour as himself and to lay down his life for him?

A news item which appeared in an Indian newspaper on April 27, 2021, prompts me to think that goodness is not lost from man forever. The news reads:
"What we have done for ourselves dies with us; what we have done for others remains and becomes immortal. An incident testifying to this occurred in Nagpur the other day. A resident of Savitri Vihar, an 85 year old Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh volunteer, Narayana Dabhadkar was infected with the Corona Virus. His daughter, amidst the shortage of hospital beds in the city, arranged a bed for him at the Indira Gandhi hospital in Nagpur after several days of running from pillar to post. By the time he was brought to the hospital, he was barely able to breathe. After he was admitted to the hospital, looking out of the window he saw a crying woman, who was begging the hospital staff for bed for her husband who was only 40 years old and was infected with the Virus. He also saw her children sobbing beside her.

Dabhadkar felt pity for the dying man and at once took a decision. He calmly told the medical staff there, "I am 85 years old now; I have lived my life. You should offer this bed to the man whose children need him the most. A young patient's need is greater than that of mine." Dabhadkar's son-in-law tried hard to change his mind. The doctor also tried to explain to him that treatment was necessary for him and told him that he might not get a bed later. Dabhadkar told his daughter that he was firm in his decision and that he wanted to leave the hospital at once. Dabhadkar signed a consent form saying that he was voluntarily forfeiting his bed for the young man. He then asked his grandson-in-law to take him back home. Three days after he reached home, he passed away. He sacrificed his life so that someone with responsibilities could live. Though he died, he became immortal through his noble act."

Though not a Christian by faith, Narayan Dabhadkar showed the great love of Jesus Christ on the Cross in action through his life. How many of us are capable of this kind of sacrifice in life, especially during this time of the pandemic?

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
A Psalm of Life-H. W. Longfellow.

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## The Worst Form of Pride



When one makes a fetish of one's humility, it manifests itself in the worst form of pride. Neither pride nor humility can be consciously cultivated; both are states of the mind which result from one's attitudes to life and matters in general. The desirable sort of attitudes align themselves with honesty. Honesty is basicallya matter of being realistic about what one believes. If it is realistic to believe that you are a good singer, for example, then you are being honest by acknowledging yourself as a good singer. When the rest of the world considers you a good singer, if you pretend that you don't think so, you are being terribly dishonest; you are obviously making a fetish of your humility; you are being proud in the most undesirable manner!

Likewise, when you have accomplished something mainly through your sustained efforts, when other people consider it commendable, and take pleasure in telling you so, have the humility to gracefully accept what they offer you; don't allow your pride to lead you to imagine that you are being very humble by pretending that you don't believe that you accomplished something commendable; you are being detestably proud by doing so!

Your face, which reflects the thoughts of your mind, is much more transparent than you are willing to believe; other people read the thoughts of your mind much more easily than you imagine. It will be much safer for you not
to have any pretensions. Be truthful to yourself, and you will begin to see that life has become a lot more meaningfu!!

Try to be more realistic in your assessment of what you are and what you have achieved; and then try to be more honest to yourself, so that you save yourself from the danger of pretending to be what you are not! Many people create unnecessary problems for themselves by pretending to be what they really are not. Life will certainly become much easier and much more meaningful when you have no pretensions to keep up. A genuine person gets on a lot more easily with everyone.

A proper analysis will reveal that most of the problems in our communities today are created by too many people pretending to be what they really are not - pretending to be either higher or lower than they really are. What is deplorably lacking is honesty. When people learn to be more honest in their assessment and acknowledgement of themselves, as well as of others, problems will begin to vanish. The beginning has to be made at a very personal level - each person has to resolve to drop pretensions and to be more honest with himself. That should be the beginning of the end of our problems. Set the ball rolling, and you will see it rolling on! ©
"Always be more than what you appear, and never appear to be more than what you are."

- Angela Merkel


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This month, we are celebrating the $75^{\text {th }}$ Independence Day of our motherland, INDIA. This induces me to think about the meaning and impact of the dream word "Independence".

In my opinion, what we got on Aug 15, 1947 is freedom from the British rule, and not independence, since freedom is the process of getting relieved from the unlawful yoke of a foreign rule imposed on us, due to our ignorance, inabilities and lack of unity, while independence is a dream which no one can fulfil for us.

Yes, Independence is in fact a dream to be achieved, and we are always on the path to make it a reality. This brings us to two other words of the same family - Dependence and Interdependence. Dependence in its true sense is something that we do not like to admit even though very often it remains a reality; a better situation is Interdependence which leads to mutual or collective development. In life, knowingly or unknowingly we have to depend on someone to get our needs fulfilled, and someone somewhere depends on us for their welfare. We may not realise this always but we will feel it when there is no one to help!

Going back to the days of British rule, let us think whether we were unilaterely dependent on them or they were equally dependent on us. They wanted from us many things which they did not have - spices, muslin, art works etc. Actually they ruled us with the manpower raised from our own people. In return we also got some benefits which include the railways, civil laws, medical facilities, English language and even a different type of education. All these happened even though "Great" Britain (242495 sqkms) is only
the size of Uttar Pradesh ( 240928 sqkms) and just $7 \%$ of India ( 3287263 sqkms) in size. England (130279 sqkms) is about the size of Tamil Nadu (130060 sqkms). Even then how could they rule us? We get the answer from the example of a "big elephant controlled by a lean mahout"!

To some extent, our relation with the British was that of interdependence, except for power. We had to remain submissive for about 400 years just as the Israelites under the Pharaohs in Egypt. Thanks to the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and the sacrifice of a lot of patriots, we got the freedom that we enjoy now. But it is a matter of regret that just like Moses, the leader, who could not enter the "Holy Land of Milk and Honey", Mahatma Gandhi the Father of our Nation could not live long in free India.

The Corona period has taught us great lessons of interdependence. We survive with the help of a lot of known and unknown people and they in turn live with the money that we spend for their services. But there are many people who do not have enough money and means to survive. This has to open our eyes and hands. They are our brothers and sisters.

We may be politically free but not mentally! There are a lot of inhibitions influencing us. We have to attain freedom from them - our selfishness, narrowmindedness, fanaticism of all sorts, apathy, intolerance, and all such negative qualities that hinder our interdependence. Once again let us proclaim "All Indians are my brothers and sisters". Let us remember that Corona has virtually made the world one! We cannot live in seclusion forgetting or forsaking interdependence, though we like to call it independence. JAI HIND....


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